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Kenſington, Febr. 2. The following Addreſs from the County of *Somerſet* was preſented to His Majeſty by Sir *Philip Sydenham* Bar. and *Nathaniel Palmer* Eſq; the Repreſentatives in Parliament of that County, introduced by his Grace the Duke of *Ormond*, Lord Lieutenant of the ſaid County; And His Majeſty received it very Graciouſly.

To the KING's *Moſt Excellent Majeſty.*

The humble Addreſs of the Deputy Lieutenants, Juſtices of the Peace, Grand Jury, Gentlemen, Freeholders, and others, aſſembled at the General Quarter-Seſſions of the Peace, held at the City of *Wells* in and for the County of *Somerſet* the 13th day of *January*, 1700.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

THO' we are not ſo early with our humble Addreſs to Your Majeſty as ſome other of Your Majeſty's dutiful Subjects, yet we hope for a gracious Acceptance, it proceeding not from any Defect of the Duty, Loyalty, and entire Affection, which we juſtly owe to Your Majeſty and Your Government, for we muſt and ever ſhall acknowledge the higheſt Gratitude imaginable to be due to Your Majeſty from us as the Beſt of Kings, for the moſt tranſcendent Bleſſings, next under the Divine Power, we enjoy by Your Majeſty's auſpicious Reign over us, and particularly for Reſcuing us and the whole Nation from Popery, Arbitrary Power, and Slavery, and Protecting us in the Proteſtant Religion, and in our Laws and Liberties, at a time when they were all upon the very brink of inevitable Ruine and Deſtruction. We therefore think our ſelves highly obliged in Duty to Your Majeſty in this Juncture to aſſure Your Majeſty, That we are deeply ſenſible, and cannot (without the greateſt Deteſtation) think of the high Indignity and Affront offered to Your Majeſty and Your Subjects by the French King, (that uſurping Monarch) who, contrary to his own Treaties with Your Majeſty, hath Owned and Set up the pretended Prince of Wales *for King of this Realm, and the reſt of Your Majeſty's Dominions, in Derogation of Your Majeſty's moſt Rightful and Lawful Title, and in Contempt of our Laws and Conſtitutions, and the eſtabliſhed Government of this Kingdom; and that we will always, to the utmoſt of our Power, Support, Maintain, and Defend Your Majeſty's Sacred Perſon and Government, and the Succeſſion of the Crown in the Proteſtant Line as it is by Law eſtabliſhed, againſt the pretended Prince of* Wales, *and all other Pretenders and Invaders whatſoever, and all their open and ſecret Adherents and Abettors; and that we will always endeavour to Extinguiſh and Suppreſs all their Hopes and Machinations, their impious Practices moſt evidently tending to the abſolute Deſtruction of our Religion, our Trade, our Peace and Proſperity both at home and abroad. And we farther moſt humbly aſſure Your Majeſty, That we will moſt readily Concur and Acquieſce in the Meaſures which Your Majeſty hath or ſhall Conclude for us, and the reſt of Your People, for preventing theſe moſt Imminent Dangers that threaten us, and in Reducing the Exorbitant Power of* France; *Beſeeching* GOD *to bleſs Your Majeſty with a long and happy Reign over us, and to give You entire Victory over all Your Enemies, and to proſper Your Majeſty in Your Proceedings, for ſecuring the Proteſtant Religion to us, and for the Eſtabliſhing the General Safety, Peace and Tranquillity of* Europe; *which ſhall be our inceſſant Prayers.*

Rome, January 14. *N. S.* A Thing has happened lately here, which makes a great deal of Noiſe; The Marquis *del Vaſto*, a Nobleman of a very great Eſtate in the Kingdom of *Naples*, being ſuſpected by the *French* of favouring the *Germans*, he retired hither for his Security, and has continued here ever ſince; Some days ago a Diſcovery was made to him of a Deſign to aſſaſſinate him, and that it was to have been done by two of his own Servants, at the Inſtigation of Cardinal *Janſon*, who manages the *French* Affairs at this Court: The Cardinal on the other hand has complained to the Pope, That this is a Falſe and Scandalous Report, and deſired Reparation of the Authors of it. In the mean time the Marquis *del Vaſto* has thought it neceſſary for his Safety to leave his own Houſe, and to retire to the Houſe of the Emperor's Ambaſſador; and 'tis ſaid, he has accepted a Commiſſion to be General of the Imperial Horſe in the Kingdom of *Naples*; in which Quality he is to command under Prince *Commerci* the Detachment Prince *Eugene* is ſending thither, of 3 Regiments of Horſe, and 3 of Foot, who in all appearance will find a very good Diſpoſition in the Generality of the People of that Kingdom to join with them.

Venice, Jan. 20. Our Senate having Advice, that ſome Ships of Count *d'Eſtrees*'s Squadron are to remain in theſe Seas, they have ordered ſeveral Men of War and Galleys to be fitted out for the Security of our Gulph. 'Tis ſaid, more Forces are ſhortly expected from *Dalmatia*, to ſtrengthen the Garriſons of *Breſcia*, *Verona*, and the other Towns of the State of *Terraſirma*. According to our laſt Advices from the Imperial Army, a ſtrong Detachment of *Germans* are advanced into the *Parmeſan*, and 'tis believed the Duke of *Parma* will admit them into *Placentia*. The *French* have made a Bridge over the *Po* near *Cremona*, and, to defend it, have built a Fort on the other ſide the River, in which they have poſted a good Body of Foot; and the reſt of their Forces are gone into Winter Quarters at *Cremona*, *Pavia*, *Alexandria*, *Bozolo*, and in the Villages which lie near to thoſe Towns. There is an Account from *Mantua*, that they are ſo cloſely blocked up by the *Germans*, that no Proviſions can be brought into that Place, where they begin to want Neceſſaries, and particularly Wood for Firing, inſomuch that they pull down the Wainſcot of their Houſes for Fuel. They write from *Rome*, that upon the likelihood of Prince *Eugene*'s ſending a Detachment to *Naples*, and of the War's being carried into that Kingdom, and particularly into the Province of *Abruzzo*, where the Imperialiſts will meet with a very great number of Perſons entirely in the Emperor's Intereſt, the Pope has ordered his Troops on that Frontier to be reinforced, and talks of ſending for the Treaſure at *Loretto* to be laid up in the Caſtle of St. *Angelo*. Theſe Letters add, that two Servants of the Marquis *del Vaſto*, a *Neapolitan* Nobleman, who not long

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